

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A big well done to Miss Clayton/Miss Norris', Miss Bowden/Mrs. Parkinson's, Mrs. Ainscough's and Mrs. Dennis' classes for getting the highest attendance this week. The class winners of the attendance award get a fun 30-minute 'Golden Time'! During this time, they can pick what they want to do—whether it's drawing, playing games, reading, or going outside to enjoy an extra play! It's a great way to celebrate their great attendance and give them some time to enjoy doing something they love.

Full House!

This week has been a very special one for our school community as all our new starters have now joined us, meaning our Nicol Mere family is complete!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to Reception this week and have been incredibly impressed by how beautifully the children have settled into school life. It has been lovely to see them growing in confidence each day, making new friends, exploring their learning environment, and embracing new routines with such enthusiasm. We are so proud of the fantastic start they have made and would like to thank families for their support during this important transition.

Responsibilities and Leadership

This week, the children took part in an assembly exploring the importance of responsibilities and the valuable role they play in our school community.

At Nicol Mere, we place great importance on children volunteering for leadership and responsibility roles. These opportunities help children develop confidence, communication skills and a sense of pride in contributing to the life of the school. They also help our school run smoothly, giving pupils a genuine voice and encouraging them to be positive role models for others.

Next week is our School Council Voting Day, giving children the opportunity to present their ideas and represent their classmates. Over the coming weeks, pupils will also be able to apply for a range of other leadership roles across school. Application forms will be available from class teachers next week.

Upcoming Events:

- **Flu Vaccinations** These vaccinations will take place in school on Monday 14th September and Tuesday 15th September. If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please ensure that you have completed the online consent form before the scheduled dates. These would have been sent to you via email from Wigan IntraHealth.
- **School Council Voting Day on Thursday 17th September** Children standing for School Council should spend some time over the weekend preparing their speeches ready to share with their classmates.
- **Class Photographs** The photographer is coming in on Thursday 17th September to do whole class pictures. Children who have PE on Thursday should come in their normal school uniform. Children will not need their PE kits on this day.
- **Parents' Evening Monday 12th October and Tuesday 13th October** Appointments will be available both in person and via telephone across the two evenings. Online booking forms will be sent out next

week, with links being shared through Class Dojo. Please keep an eye on your messages next week for further information.

Reminders

- **Breakfast and After-School Club:** Thank you for your patience with the changes to the booking system. The teething issues seem to have been addressed. If anyone is still needing help, please pop in and see Mrs Kerry at the before and after school club. She will support you in uploading credit and booking places if needed. Please remember to book online **before midnight the day before** if you wish to reserve a place for your child. This helps us plan staffing and ensure a safe, fun environment for everyone.
- **Scooters and Bikes:** For the safety of all members of our school community, please ensure that scooters and bicycles are not ridden on the playgrounds or pathways around the school buildings. We appreciate your support in helping to keep everyone safe, especially our younger children.
- **Healthy Snacks and Fizzy Drinks:** Could we kindly remind families that fizzy drinks are not permitted at break times or lunchtime. When sending a snack into school, please ensure it is a healthy option. Crisps, chocolate bars and sweets should be saved for home and not brought into school. We would also like to remind parents that we are a **nut-free school**, so please avoid sending Nutella or any other products containing nuts. Could you please ensure that if you send grapes in with your child, they are cut in half lengthways.
- **Free School Meals:** You should now have received a letter if your child is entitled to free school meals. The Government's new eligibility criteria have created some challenges for the EBIU team, and we are continuing to receive updates each week as new families are identified. If you believe you may be entitled, have completed the relevant application form, and have not yet received a letter, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help. Even if you have not qualified in the past, it is worth checking again as you may now be eligible under the new criteria. Please find below the information previously shared regarding the Department for Education's changes to free school meal allocations. We would encourage all families to take a few minutes to check their eligibility, as claiming free school meals can also help provide additional funding and support for our school.
- **Parking:** Please can we ask everyone to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children. The safety of our pupils, families and local residents is extremely important to us. Parking on double yellow lines, pavements, or in areas that obstruct visibility can create hazards for children and adults crossing the road. We would also like to remind families that parking on the school car park is strictly prohibited unless prior arrangements have been made with the school. The car park can be a very busy area, with vehicles frequently entering and leaving, so it is essential that we do everything we can to keep children safe. To further support site safety, we ask that families avoid cutting across the car park at the beginning and end of the school day. Please use the designated pathways wherever possible, as these provide the safest route around the school grounds. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us keep our school community safe.
- **Dogs on Site:** We would like to remind families that dogs should not be walked on the school grounds, including the pathways at the front and rear of the school. Dogs must not be tied up and left unattended at any entrance. We will continue to allow small dogs to be carried onto site; however, this arrangement will be reviewed if dogs continue to be put down and walked along school pathways.

Thank you for your continued support. It has been wonderful to see our school full of happy, engaged children this week. We look forward to another exciting week of learning and leadership opportunities ahead.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. E Hunter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14 th September	Flu Vaccines – Rec-Y3
Tuesday 15 th September	Flu Vaccines – Y4-Y6
Thursday 17 th September	Class Photos
Tuesday 29 th September	European Day of Languages – Italy
Thursday 1 st October	Cansfield Taster Day for Y6
Thursday 8 th October	Byrchall Taster Day for Y6
Monday 12 th October	Parents Evening
Tuesday 13 th October	Parents Evening
Tuesday 13 th October	Y3 trip to Llandudno
Wednesday 14 th October	Y2 trip to The Lowry
Thursday 15 th October	KS2 Wheelchair Day
Monday 19 th October	Halloween Disco – Y1-Y6
Tuesday 20 th October	Y4 trip to Chester
Thursday 22 nd October	New Intake 2027 Open Evening – 5.00pm
Friday 23 rd October	Break for half term – Please note normal finishing time of 3.20pm
Monday 2 nd November	Back to school
Wednesday 4 th November	Y5 trip to Jodrell Bank
Thursday 5 th November	Guy Fawkes Day

ATTENDANCE CLASS	ATTENDANCE % This week
Rec1	98.5
Rec2	99.2
Year 1D	97.9
Year 1M	98.3
Year 2B	99.3
Year 2C	99.3
Year 3A	100
Year 3S	99.3
Year 4D	100
Year 4R	94.4
Year 5M	99.4
Year 5C	99.3
Year 6K/S	99.7
Year 6L/W	95.7



TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY

Make a difference in our school!



1 Develop leadership and responsibility

by taking ownership of tasks and being a positive role model.



2 Build confidence and communication skills

through sharing ideas, organising activities, and working with others.



3 Represent pupil voice

by helping to make decisions and improvements within the school.



4 Contribute to the school community

by supporting initiatives that promote learning, wellbeing, inclusion, health or sustainability.



5 Prepare for future opportunities

by developing teamwork, problem-solving and organisational skills.



If you're interested see...

Miss Clayton
School Council

Miss Clift
and Mrs Robinson
Eco Council

Mrs Charnock
Active Leaders

Miss Shield
Mental Health
Champions

Miss Leach
Digital Leaders



Reading Ambassadors
Mrs Dennis

Nicol Mere Family

18th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

National Insurance checks for Free School Meal eligibility

From September 2026, the Department for Education are making some changes to the way that Free School Meals are allocated.

All families and children will need to be rechecked to see whether you can receive this entitlement. Please note, although all KS1 children receive 'Universal Free School Meals', we would ask that you still complete this process. This can open avenues of financial help towards the cost of some other trips/activities within school.

Please copy the link below into your search bar or scan the QR code. This will take you to an online form where you can enter your details which will enable a check to take place. You will need to enter your name, date of birth and national insurance details. This application process is simple and easy to use and takes less than 2 minutes.

To Apply for free school meals link: <https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/xfp/form/750>

Or scan the QR code.



Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Hunter
Acting Headteacher

